

*Noubliez jamais qu'en anglais la poésie tient à la qualité lyrique - musicale - du texte, beaucoup plus qu'au fait qu'il soit écrit en rimes ou non. Aussi, chaque fois que cela sera possible, écoutez un poème avant de le lire en prêtant une attention particulière aux sons et aux rythmes.*

## I. THE TYPE OF POEM

poetry: <i>la poésie</i>	verse: <i>de la poésie</i>
a poem: <i>un poème</i>	poetic: <i>poétique</i>
a sonnet: <i>un sonnet</i>	an ode: <i>une ode</i>
an elegy: <i>une élégie</i>	a ballad: <i>une ballade</i>
a poem written in blank verse: <i>un poème en prose</i>	// a poem written in free verse: <i>un poème en vers libres</i>

## II. THE CHARACTERS

Which personal pronoun(s) is / are used most often? 'I' / another pronoun.

Who is **the persona** (= *the person speaking the words of the poem*, the 'I')?

Was / Is the persona **involved** in what is described?

to be involved: *être impliqué*

## III. THE STRUCTURE

### 1. The sounds:

What sounds **recur** most often? Does this have any particular significance?

Is the poem rhymed? If so, is the **rhyme pattern** regular?

Are there pararhymes or internal rhymes?

What use does the poet make of other **repetitive devices** such as **alliterations** and **assonances**?

**What effect** is produced by these repetitions?

a device: *un procédé*

the rhyme: *la rime*

internal rhymes: *rimes internes*

vowel sound: *son de voyelle*

harsh consonant: *consonne dure*

onomatopoeia: *onomatopée*

an alliteration: *une allitération*

a stanza: *une strophe*

rhyme pattern: *organisation des rimes*

pararhymes: *rimes approximatives*

consonant sound: *son de consonne*

liquid consonant: *consonne liquide*

a pattern of sound: *un effet sonore*

an assonance: *une assonance*

### 2. The rhythm:

Are there **stanzas**? if so, are they regular? if not, what does it mean?

Is the poem written in free verse / blank verse?

Are most of the lines **tetrameters** (= four-foot lines) / **pentameters** (= five-foot lines)?

Is the basic foot the **iamb** [u -]?

Are there many occurrences of other feet such as **trochees** [- u], **spondees** [- -], **anapaests** [u u -], or **dactyls** [- uu]?

Are there many **enjambments** or **run-on** lines, or, on the contrary, does each line make up a whole?

Does the arrangement of the lines give **fluidity** to the poem or, on the contrary, is it a **sprung rhythm**?

versification/ prosody: *la versification*

the caesura: *la césure*

a line: *un vers*

the rhythm: *le rythme*

sprung rhythm: *rythme haché*

the stress: *l'accent tonique*

a stressed / unstressed syllable: *une syllabe accentuée / non accentuée*

an iamb: *un iambe (syllabe non accentuée suivie d'une syllabe accentuée [u -])*

a trochee: *un trochée (syllabe accentuée suivie d'une syllabe non accentuée [- u])*

a spondee: *un spondée [- -]*

an anapaest: *un anapeste [u u -]*

the lilt: *la cadence rythmique*

a foot: *un pied*

blank verse: *poésie non rimée*

a lively rhythm: *un rythme rapide*

a run-on line: *un enjambement*

to bear the stress: *être accentué*

a dactyl: *un dactyle [- u u]*

#### IV. THE MESSAGE OF THE POEM

Does the poem recall an individual or a general **experience**?

What **feelings** does the persona express?

How do the **similes** and **metaphors** help to convey the message of the poem?

How do the **similes** and **metaphors** help to convey the feelings of the persona?

To what **semantic field(s)** do they belong?

What do the **symbols** used reveal about the poet's preoccupation(s)?

How do they enrich **the message**?

Do they make the poem more immediately **understandable** or do they give it an **abstract quality**?

Are there **correspondences** between sounds, smells, and feelings?

How the other **figures of speech** and **figures of rhetoric** enrich the message of the poem.?

the imagery: *l'ensemble des images*

figurative language: *mots dont le sens est figuré*

metaphor: *métaphore*

to evoke: *évoquer*

to stir emotions: *faire naître des émotions*

to achieve a contrast: *établir un contraste*

a figure of speech: *une figure de style*

simile: *comparaison, image*

an extended metaphor: *une métaphore filée*

to convey: *exprimer, traduire*

to appeal to senses: *faire appel aux cinq sens*

to hold one's emotions in check: *contôler ses émotions*

#### V. CONCLUSION

**What effect** does this poem have on the reader?

**What feelings** does it elicit?

Can you draw a parallel with another poem / a text you know?

the poet's craft: *l'art du poète*

a gloomy atmosphere: *une atmosphère sinistre*

to strike a different note: *changer de ton*

to do away with form: *se libérer des contraintes formelles*

a striking feature: *une caractéristique frappante*

a hint of sadness: *une touche de tristesse*

to elicit: *susciter, provoquer*

#### A FEW DEFINITIONS

\* **an alliteration:** a special sound effect in poetry, it is the repetition of consonant sounds.

\* **an assonance:** a vowel rhyme. It contributes to creating the lilt of the poem.

\* **a metaphor:** a comparison of two basically unlike things. However the comparison is not stated directly.

\* **a simile:** a direct comparison of two things using a comparing word such as *like* or *as*.

\* **lyricism:** the quality of a piece of writing that is the expression of a mood or a feeling.